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October 5, 2011

Mr. Zaffar Eusuff, Program Manager  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: City of Ontario, New Model Colony Storm Drain Project for Proposition 1E  
Stormwater Flood Management Grant

Dear Mr. Eusuff:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit formal comments on staff recommendations for the Proposition 1E Stormwater Flood Management Grant. We do appreciate the Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff's assistance to date and the willingness to answer our questions and address our concerns.

The proposed New Model Colony Storm Drain Project ("Project") is a significant effort to deal with the inadequate infrastructure in the City of Ontario that causes significant levels of flooding, a risk to public safety, and threatens public infrastructure already in place. There are 4,500 acres in the vicinity of the Mill Creek Wetlands that currently have no storm drain infrastructure. This causes significant flooding during frequent storms, resulting in road closures, impacts to regional circulation, loss and damage to private property, and significant challenges to providing adequate emergency access and services. The New Model Colony Storm Drain Project is a solution that will substantially address flood protection and will provide multiple benefits for the community and the region.

The Project addresses the flood risks and impacts at the connections of sub-watersheds to Cucamonga Creek and the County Line Channel, which are currently subject to high levels of flooding, significant water quality impacts from local runoff, and erosion to the Prado Basin. Completion of the Project will substantially address flood protection while supporting efforts to enhance water quality as well as erosion and sediment impacts.

We have reviewed the Proposal Evaluation for the New Model Colony Storm Drain Project and have serious concerns with the scoring in a number of categories. We believe that specific and fundamental items within our proposal may have been overlooked, as the scoring in these categories does not appear to reflect the benefits offered by the project or acknowledge the materials included in the extensive project proposal. To assist in your review, we are attaching a matrix that includes the comments we received from DWR staff in our Proposal Evaluation and our responses based on those comments. As a follow up, we would also like to schedule a meeting to review our application and discuss key comments.

The statewide Proposition 1E Stormwater Flood Management Grant Program will provide over \$200 million in flood protection, water quality and other benefits to communities throughout California. Of the forty-one grant applications submitted, including nine from the Inland Empire, not one Inland Empire project is recommended for funding. As you complete your evaluation, please ask your executive staff to consider this geographic inequity in the context of providing statewide project benefits.

On behalf of the City of Ontario, we formally request a reevaluation of the grant proposal before any final decisions on Prop 1E funds are made by the DWR. We would appreciate the opportunity for our team to meet with DWR staff to discuss the City's proposal for the Prop 1E Stormwater Flood Management Grant at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Chris Hughes  
City Manager

Attachment: Proposal Evaluation – Response to Comments

c: Otto Kroutil, Development Director  
Louis Abi-younes, City Engineer  
Craig Cross, Project Manager, Department of Water Resources